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TO: ALL SUPERVISORS
FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

FIRE ACTIVITY UPDATE

This is intended to provide you with a timely update as to the two working fire incidents in Los Angeles County.

The first is the "Airport IC", located in the Cottonwood Canyon area of Catalina Island. Personnel and equipment continue to be transported via hovercraft to the island to provide additional support. Approximately 110 acres have burned, erratic winds of approximately 30 mph with gusts to 50-60 miles per hour have continued, and crews are focused on improving the fire lines in case the wind shifts. Resources maintained the lines through the night and continued efforts to contain the fire resumed at daylight. We have had excellent support from the U.S. Navy.

The second fire is the "Pacific IC", located in the area of Encinal Canyon near Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. It has spread to 2200 acres, with 450 structures protected and another 400 threatened if the fire turns. Containment is at 15%. Three structures have been damaged. Mandatory evacuations have taken place in coordination with the Sheriff's Department at the south end of Encinal Canyon with Malibu High School as the evacuation center, although most evacuees have made their own arrangements. 1036 personnel, 24 engine strike teams, 28 crews, and 5 helicopters have been assigned to the fire. Two California Highway Patrol officers were injured when hit by a drunk driver and were airlifted with minor to moderate injuries to UCLA and Northridge Medical Centers. Pacific Coast Highway has been closed from Mulholland through Kanan Dume.

Winds are predicted to continue offshore through noon, and then shift to an on-shore flow this afternoon.

The Chief Officers and I are pleased that this has been a very safe operation. I will keep you updated as matters progress. Please feel to call me if you have questions.

PMF:plf

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